UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

LAUREN BAKER,	: :
Plaintiff,	: :
v.	: Civil Action No.:
LENNAR CORPORATION,	: :
Defendant.	: :
	: :

COMPLAINT FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, Lauren Baker ("Baker" or "Plaintiff"), brings this complaint in the United States

District Court for the Southern District of Florida against LENNAR CORPORATION ("Lennar"

or "Defendant"), alleging as follows:

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Lauren Baker is an experienced commercial photographer, specializing in landscapes and nature photography. Baker resides in San Antonio, Florida.
- 2. Defendant is a Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida with its principal place of business located in Miami, Florida. Defendant's agent for service of process is CT Corporation System, 1200 South Pine Island Road, Plantation, Florida, 33324.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant has maintained sufficient minimum contacts with the State of Florida and as a result the exercise of personal

jurisdiction over Defendant by this Court would not offend traditional notices of fair play and substantial justice.

5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) because Defendant or its agent(s) reside or may be found in this district: "A defendant 'may be found' in a district in which he could be served with process; that is, in a district which may assert personal jurisdiction over the defendant."

FACTS

I. The Photographs at Issue in this Lawsuit

6. On May 27, 2023, Lauren Baker captured the photographs, "IMG_8841," "IMG_8840," "IMG_8839," "IMG_8838," "IMG_8837," "IMG_8836," "IMG_8835," ("Copyrighted Photographs") copies of which are exhibited below:















- 7. Copyrighted Photographs were registered by Lauren Baker with the United States Copyright Office on April 29, 2024 (Registration No.: VA 2-407-955).
- 8. For all times relevant to this action, Plaintiff has been the author and exclusive copyright holder of all copyright rights in and to Copyrighted Photographs. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to institute and maintain this action for copyright infringement. See 17 U.S.C. § 501(b).

II. Defendant's Unlawful Activities

- 9. Defendant is a home construction company that specializes in single family homes, townhomes and condominiums, fifty-five and older communities, and multigenerational homes. Lennar does business throughout the United States.
- 10. Beginning on or about June 1, 2023, Defendant copied, posted, or caused to be posted Copyrighted Photographs to the Stellar MLS (Multiple Listing Service) website, www.stellar.mlsmatrix.com/matrix ("MLS Infringements"), for the following properties for rent or sale in San Antonio, Florida 33576:
 - 10292 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
 - 10334 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
 - 10336 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
 - 10330 Honey Hammock Way
 - 10334 Honey Hammock Way
 - 10958 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10371 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
 - 11012 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10998 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10337 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
 - 10288 Honey Hammock Way
 - 10992 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10335 Honey Hammock Way
 - 10894 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10874 Gable Dig Loop
 - 10856 Gable Dig Loop
 - 11545 Radiant Shore Loop
 - 32126 Pop Ash Pl
 - 11442 Radiant Shore Loop
 - 32131 Pop Ash Pl
 - 10347 Honey Hammock Way
 - 11672 Radiant Shore Loop
 - 11650 Radiant Shore Loop
 - 11677 Radiant Shore Loop
 - 10694 Tupper Cay Dr
 - 11570 Radiant Shore Loop

- 32325 Wishing Haven Dr
- 10761 Tupper Cay Dr
- 32324 Wishing Haven Dr
- 10675 Tupper Cay Dr
- 11385 Linden Depot Rd
- 32301 Wishing Haven Dr
- 10631 Tupper Cay Dr
- 11484 Radiant Shore Loop
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- 10342 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
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- 10338 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
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- 10375 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way
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- 10948 Gable Dig Loop
- 11016 Gable Dig Loop

- 32220 Cannon Rush Dr
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- 11008 Gable Dig Loop
- 32164 Powderpuff Mimosa Dr
- 11004 Gable Dig Loop
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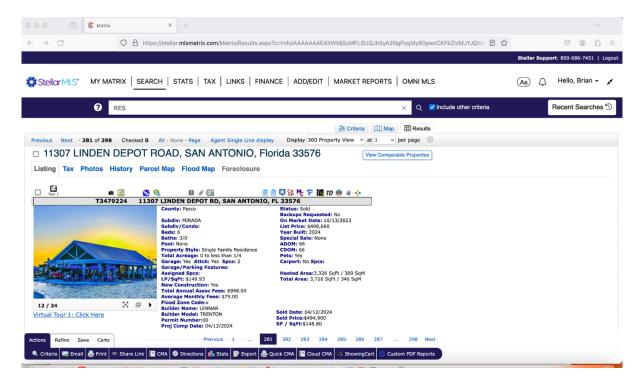
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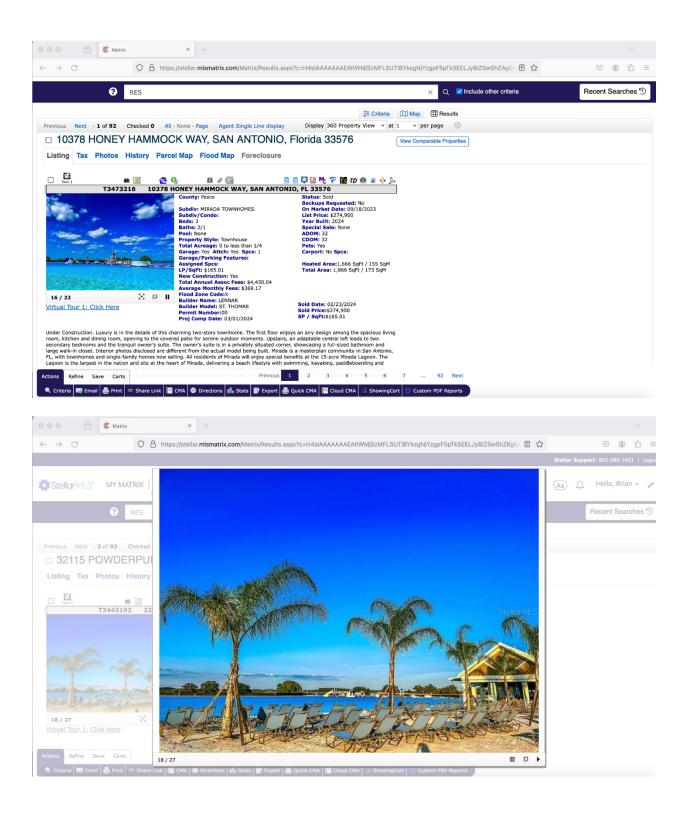
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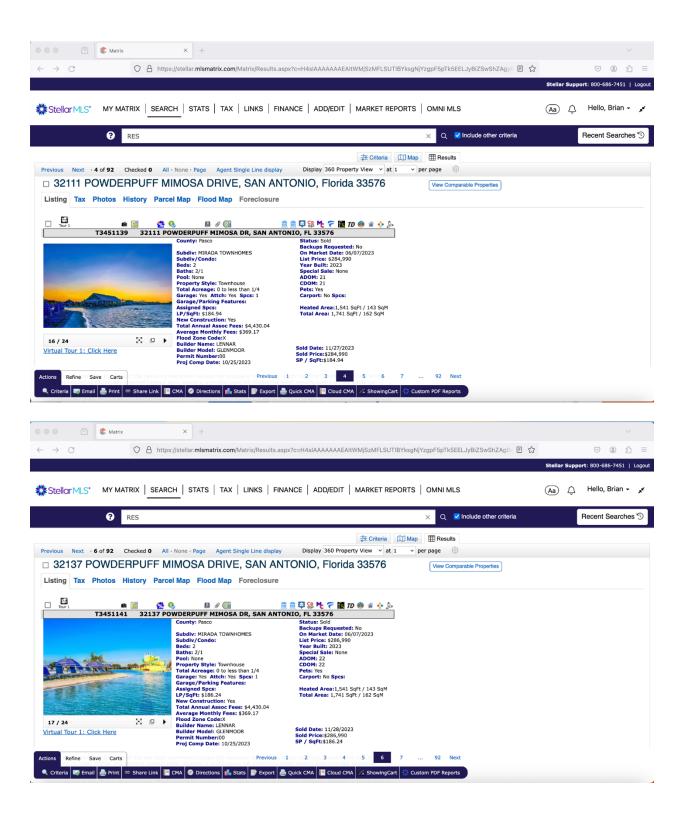
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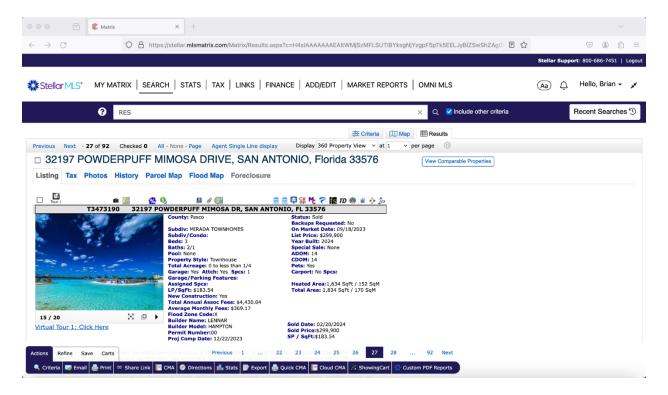
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- 10306 Trumpet Honeysuckle Way

11. Examples of MLS Infringements are illustrated below:









- 12. Before uploading its unauthorized copies of Copyrighted Photographs to Stellar MLS, Defendant falsely attested it was the author of, copyright holder of, or was properly licensed to upload of Copyrighted Photographs.
- 13. Before uploading its unauthorized copies of Copyrighted Photographs to Stellar MLS, Defendant falsely attested to the following: "By submitting content and/or images, you are confirming that you are the content creator, own the copyright to or have proper licensure to upload to Stellar MLS:"

Virtually Staged photos must have "virtually staged" in the description of the photo. To add a description click on the photo then on Edit Description. Also make sure that the Virtually Staged Y/N box has a check next to the public remarks for virtually staged photos.

By submitting content and/or images, you are confirming that you are the content creator, own the copyright to or have proper licensure to upload to Stellar MLS.

Note: Primary selected photo will need to be Property, Centric. Once a listing is off-market, the primary image will remain public.

- 14. Beginning on or about June 1, 2023, Defendant copied, posted, or caused to be posted Copyrighted Photographs to Zillow ("Zillow Infringements"), www.zillow.com, for the following property listings in San Antonio, Florida 33576:
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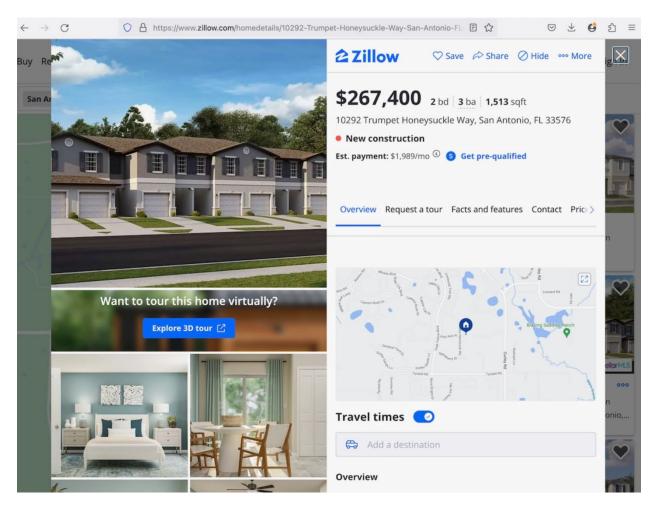
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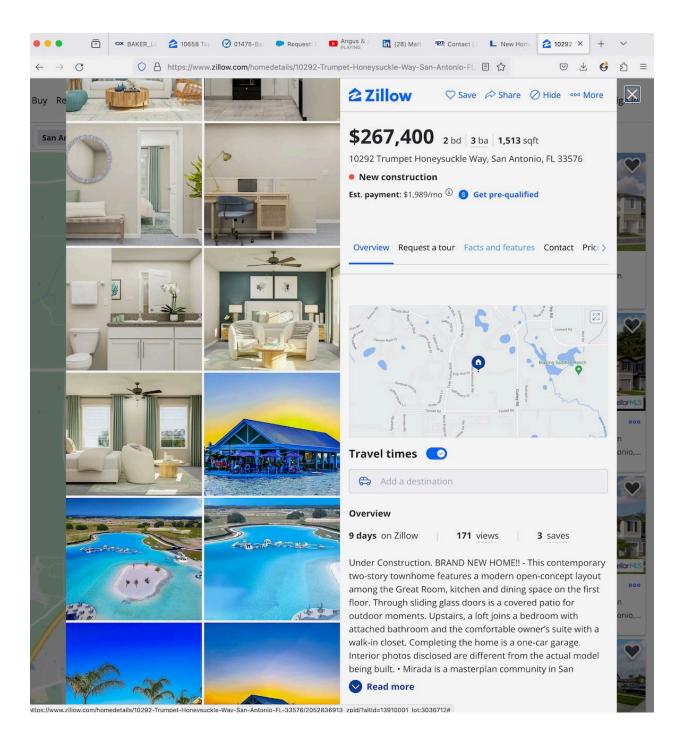
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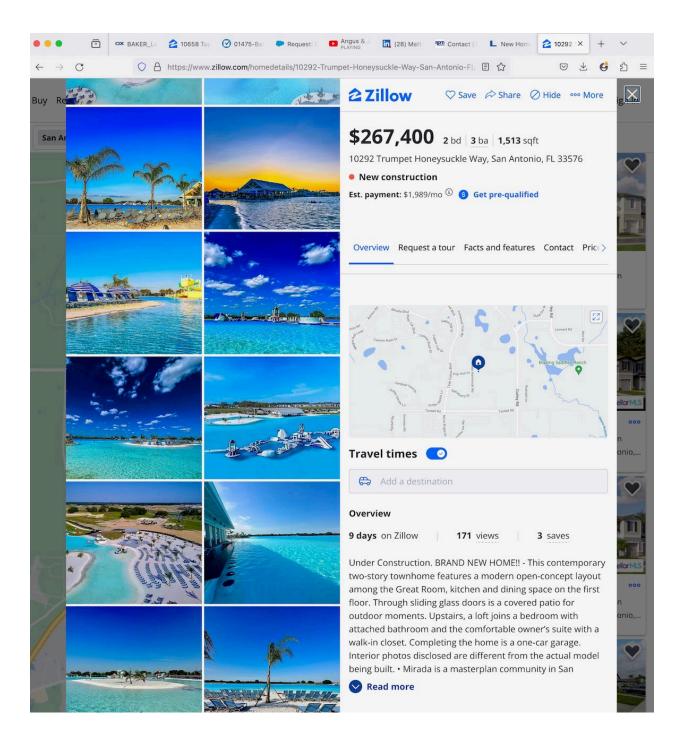
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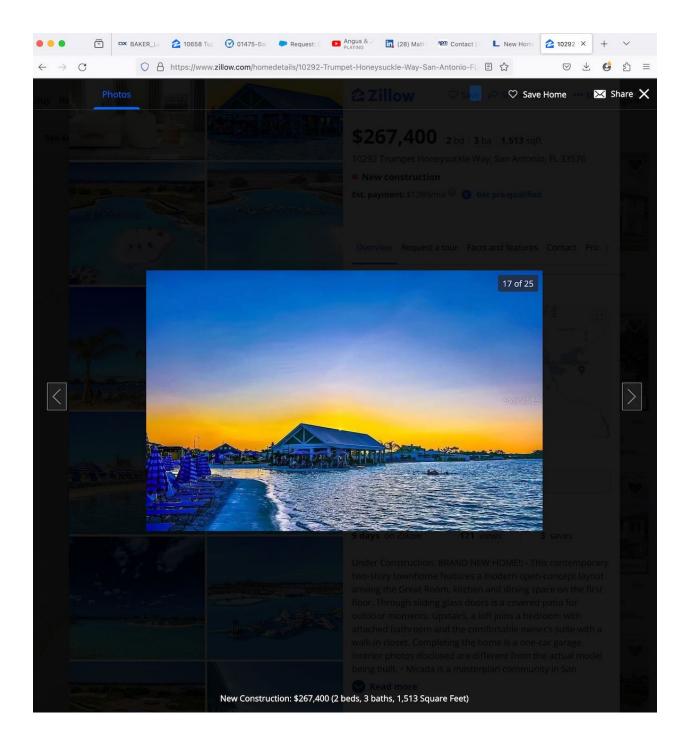
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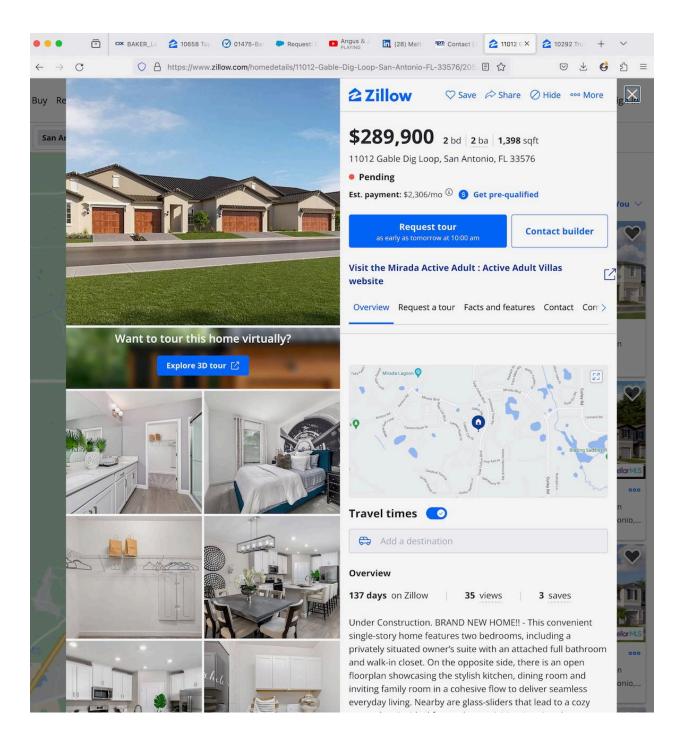
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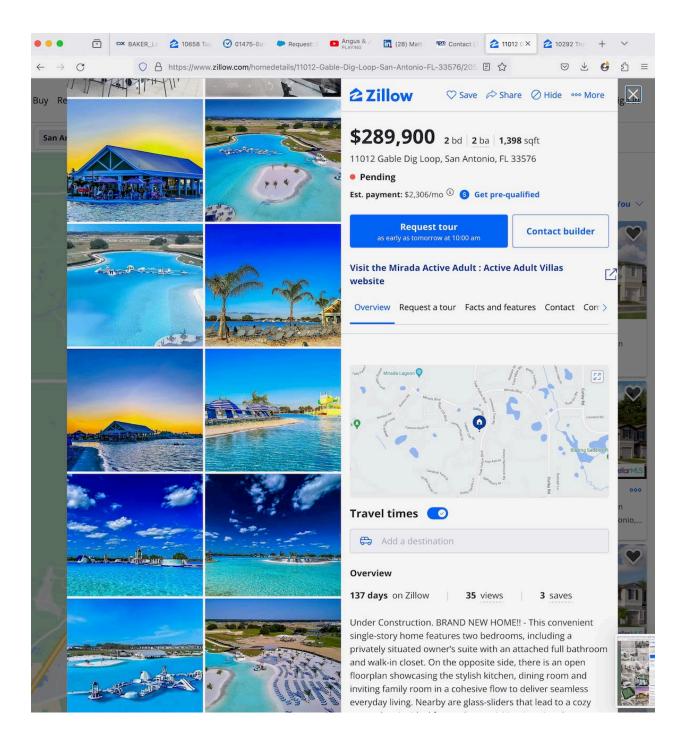


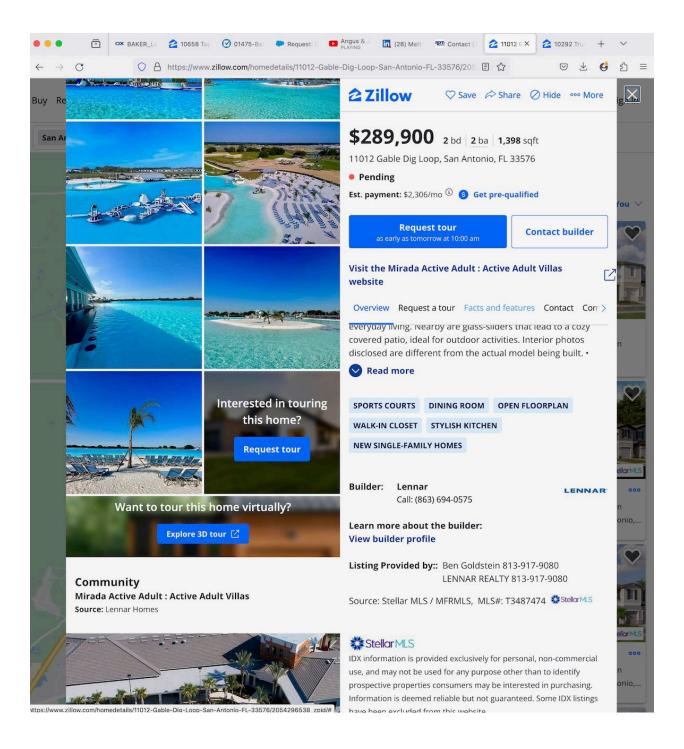


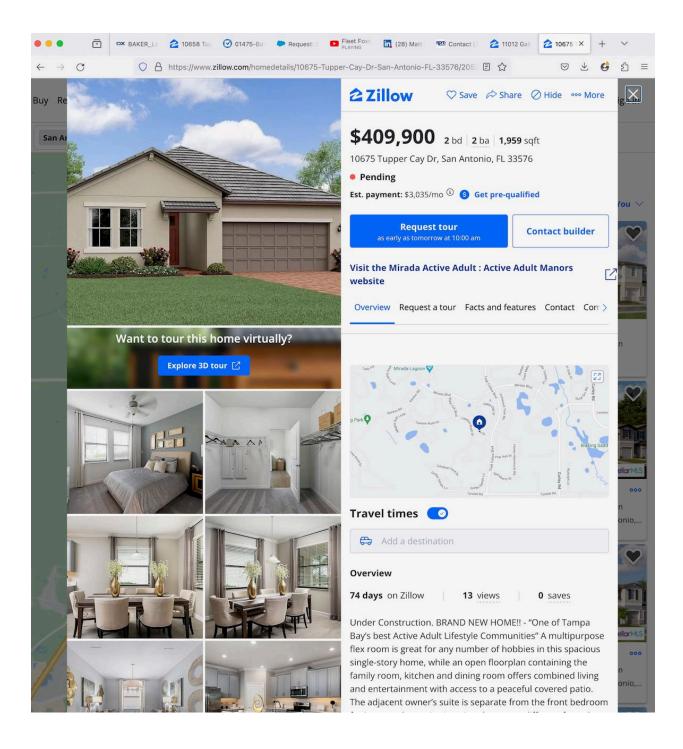


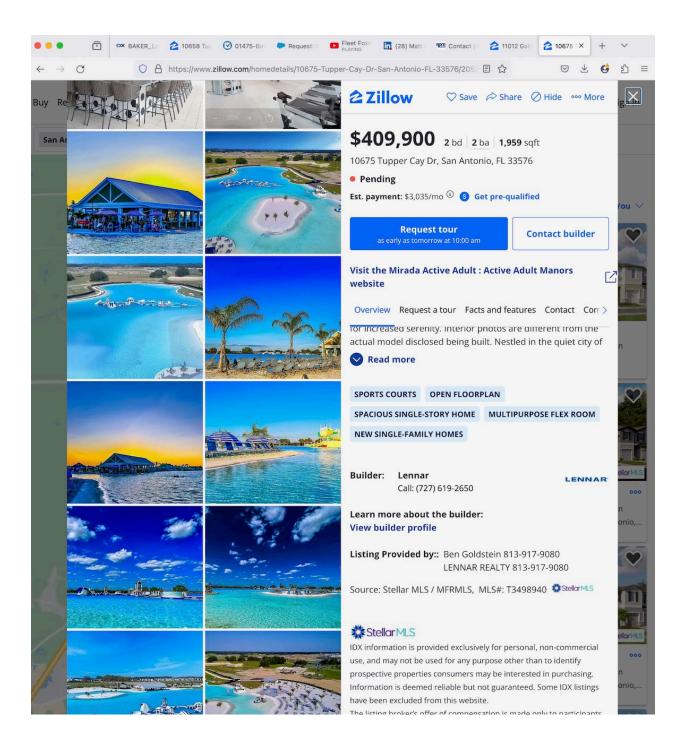


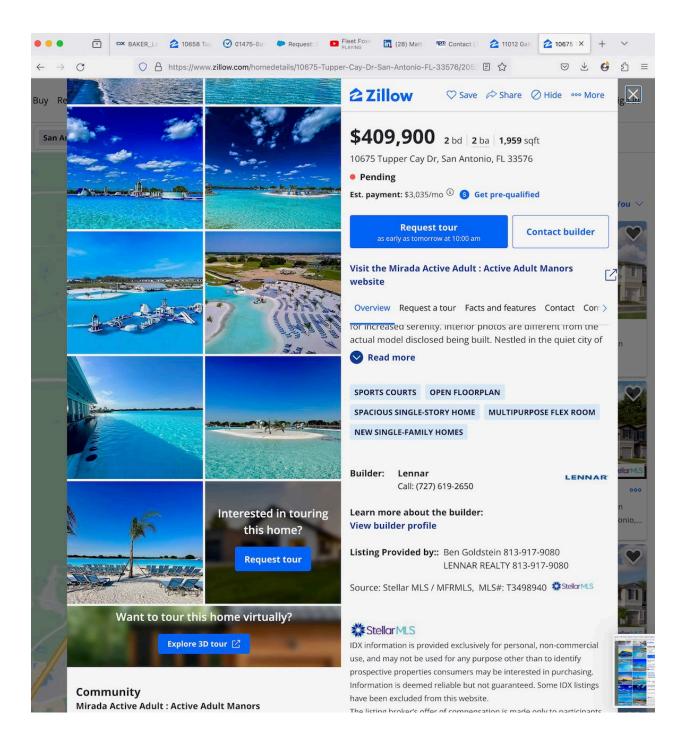


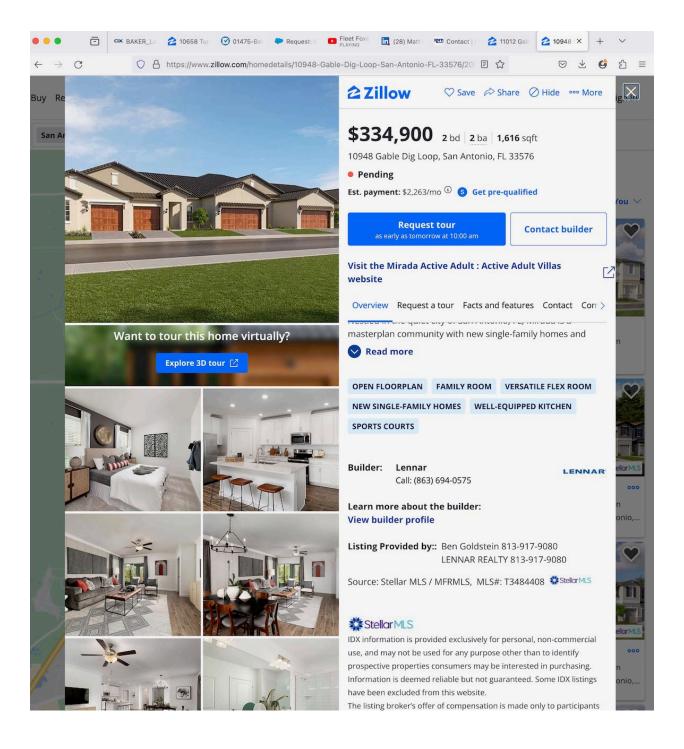


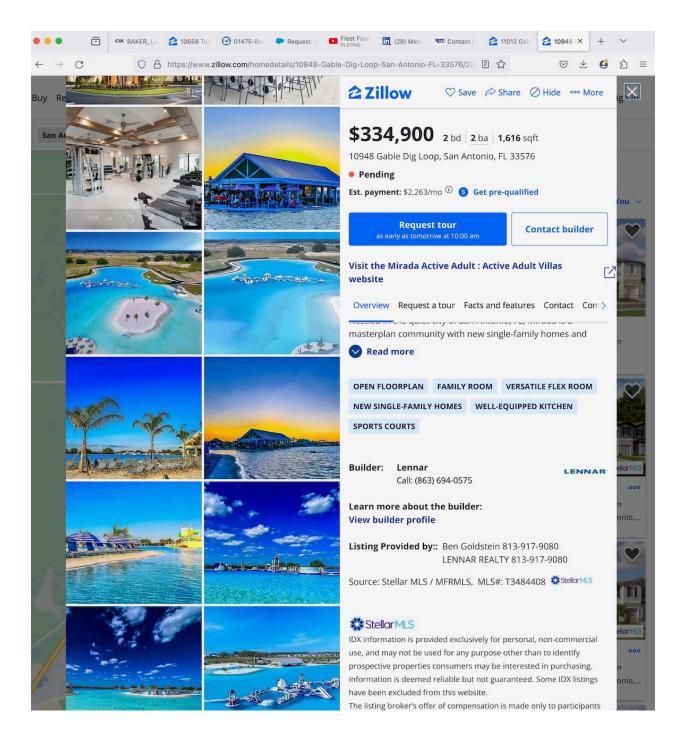


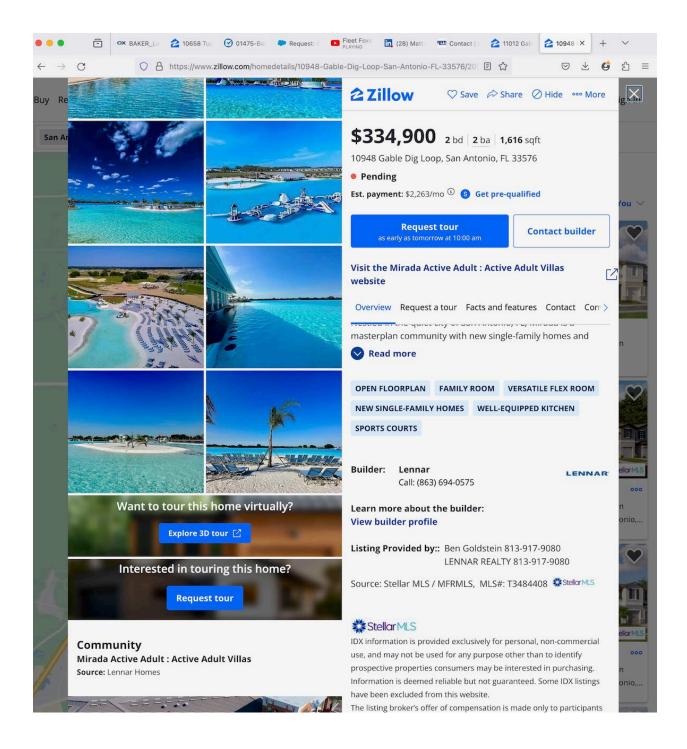












16. Zillow Infringements included the following information: "Builder: Lennar, Call: (863) 694-0575," Listing Provided by: Ben Goldstein 813-917-9080, LENNAR REALTY 813-917-9080," and "Source: Stellar MLS / MFRMLS, MLS# T3484408."

- 17. Defendant is not and has never been licensed to use or display Copyrighted Photographs.

 Defendant never contacted Plaintiff to seek permission to use Copyrighted Photographs in connection with its website or for any other purpose.
- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendant located copies of Copyrighted Photographs on the internet and, rather than contact Plaintiff to secure licenses, simply copied Copyrighted Photographs for its own commercial use.
- 19. Plaintiff first discovered Defendant's unauthorized use/display of Copyrighted
 Photographs on or about March 6, 2024. Following Plaintiff's discovery, Plaintiff notified
 Defendant in writing of such unauthorized use. To date, Plaintiff has been unable to negotiate a reasonable license for the past infringement of Copyrighted Photographs.

COUNT I: COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

- 20. Plaintiff incorporates herein by this reference each and every allegation contained in each paragraph above.
- 21. Copyrighted Photographs are original works of authorship, embodying copyrightable subject matter, and therefore subject to the full protection of the United States copyright laws (17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.).
- 22. Lauren Baker owns a valid copyright in Copyrighted Photographs, having registered Copyrighted Photographs with the Register of Copyrights.
- 23. Plaintiff has standing to bring this lawsuit and assert the claim(s) herein as it has sufficient rights, title, and interest to such copyright.
- 24. Defendant reproduced, distributed, and publicly displayed Copyrighted Photographs without authorization from Plaintiff.

- 25. By its actions, Defendant infringed and violated Plaintiff's exclusive rights in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 501, by reproducing, distributing, and publicly displaying Copyrighted Photographs for its own commercial purposes.
- 26. Defendant's infringement was willful as it acted with actual knowledge or reckless disregard for whether its conduct infringed upon Plaintiff's copyright.
 - 27. Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's infringement.
- 28. Plaintiff is entitled to recover its actual damages resulting from Defendant's unauthorized use of Copyrighted Photographs and, at Plaintiff's election (pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b)), Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages based on a disgorgement of Defendant's profits from infringement of Copyrighted Photographs, which amounts shall be proven at trial.
- 29. Alternatively, to the extent infringement by Defendant of Copyrighted Photographs occurred post-registration or within the three (3) month period between first publication and registration, and at Plaintiff's election, Plaintiff is entitled to statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), in such amount as deemed proper by the Court.
- 30. To the extent infringement by Defendant of Copyrighted Photographs occurred post-registration or within the three (3) month period between first publication and registration, Plaintiff is further entitled to recover its costs and attorneys' fees as a result of Defendant's conduct pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 for such infringement of the corresponding Copyrighted Photographs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

- a. A declaration that Defendant has infringed Plaintiff's copyrights in Copyrighted
 Photographs;
- b. A declaration that such infringement is willful (to the extent applicable);

- c. An award of actual damages and disgorgement of profits as the Court deems proper or, at Plaintiff's election (to the extent applicable), an award of statutory damages for willful infringement up to \$150,000.00 for infringement of each photograph comprising the Work.
- d. Awarding Plaintiff its costs and (if applicable) reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 17
 U.S.C. § 505;
- e. Awarding Plaintiff interest, including prejudgment interest, on the foregoing amounts;
- f. Permanently enjoining Defendant, its employees, agents, officers, directors, attorneys, successors, affiliates, subsidiaries, and assigns, and all those in active concert and participation with Defendant, from directly or indirectly infringing Plaintiff's copyrights or continuing to display, transfer, advertise, reproduce, or otherwise market Copyrighted Photographs or to participate or assist in any such activity; and
- g. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims for which there is a right to jury

trial.

Dated: September 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Janelle A. Weber
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-and-

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